Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02299 040325Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 040230Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3931

CONFIDENTIAL RANGOON 2299

FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, TH, ID, MY, BM, SN

SUBJ: DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLANS

REF: STATE 173142

1. WE HAVE ONLY MINOR COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DESK'S EXCELLENT DRAFT:

A. SECTION A. 1. D.: SUGGEST THE LAST SENTENCE BE ELIMINATED OR CLARIFIED, I.E., IN WHAT WAY DOES ITS EAST EUROPEAN PATTERN DENY A FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL?

B. SECTION A-3: THE LAST SENTENCE IS GREATLY OVER-SIMPLIFIED. IN ALMOST ANY COUNTRY OFFICIALS LIVE BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. BURMA HAS DONE A

REMARKABLE JOB OF ECONOMIC LEVELING. THE PROBLEM IS THAT ITS POLICIES HAVE LED TO A LEVELING DOWN TO A COMMON POVERTY.

C. SECTION A-4: AT THE END OF THE FIRST PARA REFERENCE
TO ADOPTION OF BRITISH LEGAL CONCEPTS SEEMS TO CONTRADICT THE EAST EUROPEAN PATTERN MENTIONED IN A-1. D. IN
FACT, THERE UGXIST BRITISH LEGAL CONCEPTS IN A GENERALLY
EAST EUROPEAN STRUCTURE. TO AVOID APPARENT CONTRADICTION

WE SUGGEST THIS BE MADE EXPLICIT.

D. SECTION A-5: A MINOR POINT BUT IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO CHANGE, "WE DOUBT THE GUB WOULD BE WILLING..." CONFIDENTIAL

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TO "THE GUB ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERMIT..."

E. UNDER SECTION 3 OR 4(A) IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO MENTION

THAT THE GUB BELIEVES ITS POLITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

IS GOOD, PARTICULARLY IN T I CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT ITS

ECONOMIC RIGHTS EFFORTS ARE MORAL AND CORRECT, FAR MORE

MORAL THAN IN A "CAPITALIST" STATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RANGOO02299
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770279-0715

Format: TEL From: RANGOON **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770896/aaaaddvd.tel

Line Count: 62 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: b89dfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: 77 STĂTE 173142

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1708053 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLANS

TAGS: SHUM, TH, ID, MY, BM, SN

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b89dfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009